

CLAIM

What I claim as my invention is the creation of a publicly accessible internet-based electronic clearinghouse that processes prescriptions for drugs. Since the clearinghouse runs on the internet, users do not have to install any software or hardware. The only requirement is that they have an internet connection and a Web browser. The clearinghouse will store physician, pharmacy, and patient data according to the rules of HIPAA. The clearinghouse supports three types of customers – physicians, pharmacies, and patients. Patients are defined as any person that visits a physician and requires a prescription drug.

Prior to using the clearinghouse, the physician must register with the clearinghouse. Once registered, the physician may create prescriptions using any web browser and then send those prescriptions over the internet to any pharmacy registered with the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse will save every prescription in its database. This allows a physician to search this prescription database for historical purposes or to modify and reissue prescriptions created by that physician.

Prior to using the clearinghouse, the pharmacy must register with the clearinghouse. Once registered, the pharmacy can receive prescriptions from the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse will deliver prescriptions in an industry standard or pharmacy defined format. The pharmacy will receive prescriptions electronically over the internet from the clearinghouse. This will allow the pharmacy to automatically update its computer systems and route the prescription to the specific retail pharmacy. The clearinghouse will also allow

the pharmacy to e-mail questions regarding a specific prescription back to the physician that issued the prescription.

Prior to accessing the clearinghouse, the patient must register with the clearinghouse.

Once registered, the patient can access the clearinghouse and view their specific prescription history. If a specific prescription has open refills the patient can request the clearinghouse send that prescription to the pharmacy requesting the prescription be refilled.

The clearinghouse will notify the physician that the patient has requested a refill if necessary.